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VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

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It's YOUR NEWSPAPER

Valley Faces Construction Road Blocks

BY MARTIN RUIZ
 STAFF WRITER

Valley College students may have noticed a lot of construction going on around campus and wondered what it was all about. After more than 30 years, Valley is finally receiving a facelift; however, the dates for many of the projects have been pushed back because of budget difficulties.

ReVitalizing Valley, the title of the overall project to renovate the campus, is the result of Propositions A and AA, passed in 2001 and 2003 respectively, which awarded a total of about \$2.2 billion to the nine Los Angeles community colleges.

"It appeared to be a slow start for us with all the planning on the front end," said President Tyree Wieder. "The budget has had to change because of escalating costs several times and we've had to... reprioritize projects."

Of the \$276.9 million that Valley received, about \$178.3 million has been spent so far, according to the September monthly progress report released by URS, the construction management team hired by the district to oversee the project.

There are about 18 subprojects underway or planned. The first of these to be completed was the Maintenance and Operations building in April, followed by the track and fields in June.

The Foreign Language building has been remodeled, and now work is being done on the Behavioral Sciences building. There's a new

marquee on Fulton and Oxnard, several buildings have been painted, restrooms remodeled, financial aid and computer science bungalows renovated, and new signs are being added to the buildings.

Ground was broken in June for the most expensive project, the \$46 million 98,000-square-foot Allied Health & Sciences building, to be completed by Spring 2008.

Multiple projects, however, are still up in the air. "They don't give us the schedules because some of these [projects] are not approved yet," said ASU Athletics Commissioner Nazanin Chiniforoushan. "They have to go through some processes, the design has to be approved [and] the material has to get approved."

Many projects won't be completed until at least 2008 or 2009. The uncertainty of the budget is the primary cause.

"I think you'll find every project has had an issue with the budget," said Tom Lopez, Director of College Facilities. "We had to make decisions of what not to do. One good example is the Media Arts building, which is in limbo because there's no money for it. We're struggling."

With an extra \$4.4 million needed, URS Project Manager Mitch Vaccari said, "I think the crystal ball in front of us is what's going to happen the first week in November. That's where the money is." Referring to Proposition 1D, Vaccari continued, "If you've got money for the library, things change; if there's no money for the library,

see 'Construct' page 3



ALEX FAYVIL / VALLEY STAR

BABY STEPS- Child development student intern Anna Lopez plays with Arianna while Arianna's mother talks with other parents about their developing babies in the Parent and Baby Sessions program at Valley College.

Parents Learn, Babies Play

BY KHARA HUBERMAN
 STAFF WRITER

Valley College has opened its parental doors to students who want to learn more about their developing babies in a free program called "Parent and Baby Sessions."

The program is a supportive and engaging environment designed for student-parents with babies 30 months and younger. It allows students to participate in educational discussions pertaining to their child's development and

to meet other parents with similar interests.

"Sessions are limited to 12 parents to maintain a sense of small community and comfort," said Kathleen Weislein, community director of special projects in the center. "A professional expert in child development mediates the sessions covering a wide range of topics [like] parenting skills and age appropriate activities."

The program stems from a two-year-old grant awarded to the Child Development Department, which named the project, The Infant and Toddler Teacher Institute.

"The open format provides the opportunity for parents to introduce topics, in which they are interested, meet other parents, engage in lively discussions and share experiences," said Weislein.

"I'm interested in topics like food and nap schedules," said Gisella Valencia, an educational major. "[I found the] discussion on language to be interesting because I should speak my first language, which is Spanish, to my baby because she

will learn English in school."

Maria Ramirez, a pharmaceutical major, said, "I think the program is good because we get to meet other [parents]."

According to Ramirez, during the first meeting parents briefly discussed sleeping schedules for children and whether or not it's OK if children wake up after 9 p.m.

While parents discuss educational topics, child development student interns keep the children engaged with age-appropriate toys and activities.

Toys consist of dolls, colorful tents and small hand-held items meant to stimulate the child. The program also encourages parents to read age-appropriate books and sing songs to engage their children.

"Last week we sang songs like, The Wheels on the Bus, Patty Cake, and several other ones," said Ramirez.

The program provides free parking passes to parents who reserve a space and is only valid Fridays 12:30-1:30 p.m. for the next few months.

College Workshop Teaches Tolerance

BY MARTIN RUIZ
 STAFF WRITER

Students and faculty members received a four-and-a-half hour crash course in diversity at Valley College on Oct. 17 and 19 in the "Campus of Difference" workshop. Presented by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), the event drew 25 people each day.

The ADL is an organization geared towards securing justice and fair treatment for all citizens.

"Valley College already has a commitment to these issues," said co-facilitator and ADL representative Steven Dansinger. "Diversity is part of your mission statement, so we're here to try and help out in carrying out that piece of your mission."

ADL representative Tanya Bowers, who also facilitated the program, said they conduct the program at colleges and universities across the country.

Bowers noted that it's important for Valley to take advantage of its diversity.

As part of the workshop, the participants created some ground rules for their discussion and then set about building a case for diversity on campus. They listed the advantages for having diversity among various groups of people on campus, including students, staff, faculty, and alumni.

"It's a model we tailor to whatever school or institution we're at so that students here at the college can begin a dialogue on diversity," said Dansinger.

Valley's model included sections on cultural and personal identity, examining bias, and action planning. The last facet helps participants use the knowledge they've gained.

Joer Acol, a Valley student from the Philippines, said the workshop was a way of building her con-

see 'ADL' page 3

Campus Security Looks Up

BY JESSICA SHAFER
 STAFF WRITER

Valley College's ongoing plan to upgrade campus security is going to happen after five years of waiting, with construction on several new features beginning next year.

Statistically the college is very safe; so far in 2006 there have been fewer than 10 reported cases of robbery and assault and battery.

"Crime on this campus is pretty much limited to property crime," said Deputy Sheriff Tom Lynch. Valley's other burden is vandalism, costing \$40,000 a year in clean up.

In order to target all these areas, around 30 security cameras will be added inside and outside of the buildings, aimed at walkways and parking lots. These cameras will be directly linked to the Valley College Sheriff's Department's patrol cars.

"The only thing [security officers] can do now is to be somewhere that a situation is occurring just by luck," said Vice President Tom Jacobsmeyer. "So in order to give them... a greater flexibility when they're now driving around in the car... they are going to be able to look at all of these cameras in the car... which really increases the efficiency of security on campus."

Lynch and Jacobsmeyer hope the cameras will primarily work as a deterrent. "The cameras just allow one person to view more area," said Lynch. "And that will deter a lot of crime."



ALEX FAYVIL/VALLEY STAR
LOOKING OUT- Deputy Sheriff Tom Lynch keeps an eye on Valley College.

Not everyone agrees. "I think they [the security cameras] are a waste of money," said Valley student Justin Trosper. "Does it do any good? It's just a way to write tickets to make money. It's like a band-aid for a broken arm."

Though the Sheriff's Department does a good job with keeping the campus safe, Lynch admits that they are understaffed. When asked what he thought would be the best safety feature the school could add, Lynch said, "Ideally, personnel... when these guys are out writing their tickets or in the parking lots, I think that deters a lot of people."

The campus plan also includes better automatic lighting, call boxes from the parking lots connecting students directly to the Sheriff's Department, and automatically controlled door locks.

The funds for the security projects comes from Propositions A and AA, which was passed in 2001, giving Valley \$286 million for renovating the campus.

"The only delays are contractual," Jacobsmeyer said. "We've done quite a bit. Whenever you get \$300 million to build things you need to plan very care-

see 'Crime' page 3



DANIEL KANE / VALLEY STAR

STACKING TALL - Valley's library provides valuable resources for students with thousands of books, journals and online sources.

Library Shelves Secret Treasures

BY ELEARY S. NIXON
 STAFF WRITER

At first glance, the Valley College library looks straight out of the '60s, with its wooden seats, scarce student visitors and the smell of 126,000 shelved books. However, with the extensive resources available, it proves you should never judge a book by its cover.

With more than 17,000 students enrolled at Valley, one might think that the library could not provide enough space, computers or resources to meet the needs of all the students. Yet the real issue

behind its outdated appearance isn't a lack of space or equipment, but more so the number of students who frequent the library.

"Students need to take the initiative to come to the library [and see what is available for them]," said Librarian and Reference/Bibliographic Instructor Dana Lubow. "We [the library staff] are here and want to help students."

The staff's eagerness to help has made using the library a good experience for the students who do go there.

"I've been there twice and it helped me find the information I was looking for," said psychology

major Holly Gonzalez. "I will be going back."

The low number of students using the library is no reflection of the services available there, which are numerous. There is a periodical room designated for all magazines, newspapers, microfilm (written publications put on film), and 12 Internet accessible computers where Microsoft Word can be accessed. The periodical room also provides study spaces and a leisure area.

Then there is the distinct hub of the library, its reference area.

see 'Library' page 3

LETTERS

The Valley Star tries to print as many letters from its readers as possible. Letters shouldn't exceed 300 words or they may be edited for space and must include the author's name, major and connection to Valley College and contact information.

Re: "Campus Abuzz Over Faculty Confrontation" by Ana Kaczmarek; (Oct. 25, 2006)

What Not to Do as an LAVC Faculty Member

It has come to my attention that when the question arose in the Academic Senate last week about whether or not "the incident," as it's euphemistically come to be known, of May 25, 2006 involving myself and Jack Sterk should be discussed in public, one of the senators asked—in jest, I understand—that, yes, he would like to know what Mr. Sterk did so that he "would know what not to do." I also hear that this topic pretty much went on not to be discussed, with another colleague noting that it seemed like "taboo."

Well, from where I stand, I can certainly agree that it does seem to be taboo, and I intend to begin to break that taboo here by answering the senator's question about what not to do and by asking my own questions of those LAVC governing bodies that can determine policies and procedures of what to do instead.

Here's what I think clearly one should not do in any workplace, much less an institution of higher learning: You should not corner a colleague, spitte flying, while screaming accusations, threats and expletives less than two inches from his or her face, nor should you body block this colleague and curl your fist into a ball and pull it back in order to punch this colleague in the face. And probably most especially you should not do any of these things if you are a man perpetrating this violence on a woman. Further, you should not—no matter how righteous you think your cause or your anger—grab hold of

another colleague and shake that colleague who is not only much, much smaller than you but is someone who by position serves in a subordinate role to you on the campus.

It would probably seem quite logical to most of our students, especially our working students, that there is no place for fear for one's personal safety in the workplace, that in fact, as the federal government's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) confirms, the best course of action is to establish a "zero-tolerance policy toward workplace violence."

The overall question remains then, should Los Angeles Valley College be talking and doing more about workplace violence? When a classified staff member gets fired for yelling at and touching another staff member but a faculty member doing the same thing does not, then, yes, we need to say and do more. When a student is immediately removed from campus and then is expelled for such actions, but a faculty member is not, then, yes, we need to say and do more. We will never get to any kind of logical solutions about what can or should be done about workplace violence until governing bodies like the faculty senate, the classified and certificated staff unions, and the college administration go on the record about why civil discourse, respect, equal rights and personal safety are the touchstones of a learning college, and that these are the values that should guide our conduct both in an out of the classroom.

Faculty in Uproar Over "Taboo" Topic

The context of a quote attributed to me by The Valley Star might need clarification. The context from my viewpoint was that after a loud, very public, non-collegial argument between two usually gregarious, brilliant, hard-working, and opinionated people, the Senate Vice President (Deborah Harrington) and the Senate Parliamentarian (Jack Sterk), both disappeared from the campus. I found out that the former had accepted an administrative position at another college and that the latter had taken a leave of absence for the summer. But by this semester noxious rumors were circulating, the least of which was that the faculty member on leave had been transferred to Pierce College because he was considered a threat to campus safety at Valley College.

This brought some questions to mind. Why was this not being discussed on campus by a faculty that usually talks about everything? It seemed like the incident and the transfer were taboo to talk about.

I asked questions at the Academic Senate (Oct. 19) meet-

ing because I wanted to know why our Senate Parliamentarian, an instructor who had served as Senate President, chaired many college committees and the speech department during his 36 years as a faculty member, had disappeared. Was there due process? Was there a police report that said a crime had been committed? How loud did an argument have to be to result in a transfer, a decision, I found, that is left solely to the college president's discretion. And how could someone identified by administration as a threat at Valley, not be one at Pierce as well?

I guess I was advocating the position that exposure of the facts, as well as discussion of related issues such as freedom of speech, "boorish behavior," collegiality, retaliation, fairness, feelings of intimidation, fear of being disappeared, might be healthy for our campus community.

Kathleen Sullivan
Coordinator
Disabled Student Programs
and Services

AN OPINION

Denying Education is a Crime

BY WILL REYES
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Getting back to a normal life is a difficult task for many convicted felons. Facing the stigmas that come with a criminal history, re-adjusting to life outside of prison and distancing themselves from the environment that led them to crime are just some of the daunting tasks that await them.

The option of returning to school and pursuing a new life through education, a vital opportunity that most people take for granted, is one that is not always given to felons.

Many four-year colleges in the United States require applicants to disclose if they have ever been convicted of a felony, and while it isn't directly cited as a reason for a felon not being accepted, the fact remains that the offense heavily factors into the college's decision.

During an October presentation in Wisconsin discussing sexual assault, Brett Sokolow, an attorney and president of the National Center for Higher Education Risk Management, told a story of a student, who he identified as "Todd" for confidentiality, that was not allowed back into a four-year school to earn a degree because of a sexual assault conviction.

"Todd," who was sentenced to three years in a medium-security prison and had to register as a tier three sexual predator, had a difficult time finishing school after his conviction and had to turn to a community college to earn his associate's degree.

The reality for "Todd" and others

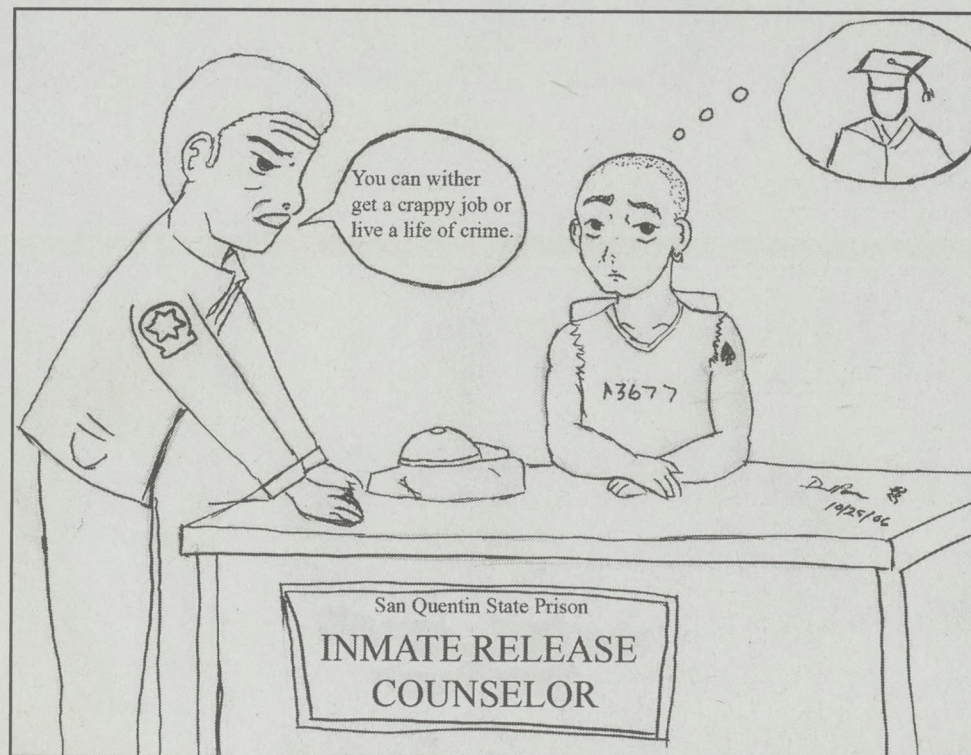


ILLUSTRATION BY DANIEL PARRA / VALLEY STAR

like him looking to re-enter society is one stripped of many basic American rights, including the right to vote, and with little left at their disposal, the stacked odds can easily push them back into a life of crime.

Community colleges, which are the first step toward higher education for a large number of people, are an important avenue for everyone, including felons, to get a second chance in life.

While the enrollment of felons in college courses may make some students uneasy, the risk factor and fear of a repeat crime shouldn't validate exclud-

ing an entire group of people from furthering their education.

All colleges and universities need to take a stand and send the clear message that reformed convicts looking to make a positive change in their lives can count on educational institutions.

With such an emphasis put on the reformation of criminals and the skyrocketing numbers of prison populations, which are at approximately 170,000 inmates in California alone, today's society should be more open-minded about embracing and cultivating education fairly for everyone.

Because make no mistake about it: students were watching on May 25, 2006, and as a campus community we have to grapple with what we want them to learn from that witness.

Deborah Harrington
Professor, English

Editor's Note: Jeanne Rubin's account of the incident was that Jack Sterk was shaking so strongly when he grabbed her that he inadvertently shook her.

Rules Apply to Speech

First, I want to thank the "Star" for its thorough and even-handed coverage of the incident involving Jack Sterk. This is no surprise since the paper is routinely recognized as one of the state's best, but it is worth acknowledging its excellence once again.

I wonder whether Mr. (Joshua) Miller understands that there is a difference between being "antagonistic" and "behaving in a threatening and aggressive manner using physical intimidation." If he does not, he should. As for the unanimous support for Mr. Sterk by the faculty of the Speech Department, I am afraid this does not reflect well upon this department. After all, the Academic Senate has a "Statement of Faculty Ethics" that says, "Faculty members do not discriminate against or harass colleagues." It also states, "Faculty members at Valley College have the right and freedom to disagree with colleagues, but the responsibility to accept return disagreement without personal attack or denigration." Are the members of the Speech Department faculty somehow exempt from these obligations? Assuming faculty ethics have some significance at LAVC, it will be interesting to see if the Senate chooses to remind this group of faculty members of what these ethics are.

Jeanne C. Rubin
Executive Assistant
to the President

FIRST PERSON OPINION

First Amendment Also Applies to Student Press

■ Student journalists are learning real world practices and expectations through work with advisers and journalism learning lab.

BY ANA KACZMAREK
NEWS EDITOR

Assuming that the academic environment is a supportive and nurturing place, it would seem out of place for an instructor to angrily accost a student reporter over an article they did not approve of being written.

After this happened to me while doing the leg-work for a story I was writing two weeks ago, I realized that perhaps not everyone on the campus understands the purpose or structure of the Valley Star and student journalism.

The reporters at the Valley Star are students, plain and simple. Like in any class, they are learning, albeit in a more practice based environment. Stories are assigned and approved by the Editor in Chief each week, which our adviser providing guidance, but essentially leaving the decisions up to the students.

Since the paper is an independent paper, we do not editorialize for the benefit of the school or its image. Our primary purpose is to inform students of relevant information, whether it be services, games, popular culture or events that impact the campus community.

Faculty and administration are a big part of the job, as they provide the bulk of the services and events on campus that students are interested in.

In finding details for stories, the staff writers are grateful for faculty and administration interviews as they add needed elements to stories and provide wisdom and insight. They are also privileged to provide a "no comment" response in they do not wish to contribute to the interview.

However, to berate a stu-

dent for their work is tantamount to intimidation. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution provides for freedom of press and free speech, regardless of the stigma of the subject being discussed. In addition, Gov. Schwarzenegger signed a censorship bill last year, which prohibits prior restraint and other forms of censorship of student newspapers in public universities.

If students are not allowed to foray into taboo territory, then they are being short-changed as budding reporters learning to navigate the fine line between fact and hearsay, truth and ethics, and the responsibility to inform the public.

After all, the students are

If an authority figure chooses to disrespect the campus community and forgoes their responsibility to lead by example, then what reason does the campus have to protect their interest over the interests of the students?

the reason for the school and the reason the faculty and administration are here at Valley. There is no intent to defame anyone's reputation or create conflict — our job is to report the news, even if it makes some people uncomfortable.

The same person who disapproved of the article I was writing suggested that the paper only write positive stories about the school. We already do. Unfortunately, our school is

not a utopian happy land where everyone gets along and nothing negative happens.

To sweep something negative under the rug to protect a person or institution's reputation may be someone's job on campus, but it is certainly not ours. Everyone in an authority position, particularly the instructors, is a mentor and a role model for the student body. They are, and should be, held to a high standard of conduct and behavior.

If an authority figure chooses to disrespect the campus community and forgoes their responsibility to lead by example, then what reason does the campus have to protect their interest over the interests of the students?

The Valley Star has the responsibility to protect student interests, because a safe and open educational environment should not be an ideal, but a reality. The difference for us at the Star is that our work is broadcast to the campus for assessment, and our failures are harder to hide.

So when a Valley Star reporter shows up at your office or asks for an interview, remember, we're learning. We're doing our best to address student concerns and we would appreciate the benefit of the doubt that we are working hard to be factual and accurate.

We will learn from our mistakes, publish corrections, and do it better next time. We already have an adviser who points out our errors and pushes us to be better journalists, along with others who provide constructive criticism.

Perhaps the few who don't like what we do will toughen our skins, but a "no comment" is also an appropriate answer, and ultimately, a more tactful one.

For more stories, photos and letters to the editor, visit the Valley Star online at

www.lavalleystar.com

'ADL'

continued from page 1

fidence and commented, "You've got to have respect for every culture."

The workshop also included the showing of the blue-eyed, brown-eyed experiment video. In the experiment, a class of children is separated into two groups - one with blue eyes and the other with brown eyes. The blue-eyed children are told that they are better than the brown-eyed children and given the opportunity to treat them as such, creating a devastating effect on the brown-eyed children.

"They [ADL] are trying to

make a difference on the campus and community level," said English major George Mejia. Although he experienced different cultural perspectives while serving in the Navy, he said, "My hardest thing was relating with other people because you might say something you don't really mean."

Lila Perez, an undeclared major who attended the workshop as credit for her English class, said that there should be more awareness of such issues. "If my teacher didn't tell me this was going on, I wouldn't even know," she said. "I just wish people were more tolerant and participated more. I wish there was more stuff like this going on at school."

'Library'

continued from page 1

With worktables, study areas, thousands of books covering a variety of topics, and computers, it's an excellent tool for students. While the computers in the reference department are not Internet accessible, they do provide an exclusive feature. The 12 OPAC (On-line Public Access Catalog) based computers are used to research written publications that can be found throughout the nine Los Angeles Community College District libraries. More importantly, there are experienced librarians who know how to navigate effortlessly through the electronic resource directory.

"We have scheduled library orientations [available

by appointment to help students and faculty learn about the library's resources," said Lubow. The orientation instructs students on how to properly utilize the library and its online resources like Infotrac Journal, Lexis-Nexis, and Books-in-print.

With so much inaccurate information on the Internet, the library offers widespread research methods using accurate Internet searches, an important detail at a time when Lubow says, "Students mistakenly take the information on the Internet as the gospel truth."

The library also provides information on correct essay topic research, instructions on how to cite sources using MLA or APA format, along with how to write resumes and more. All this information can be found on the library's personal website <http://www.lavc.edu/Library/library.html> or can be accessed from your personal computer on campus with your UIA username and password.

"I use the library often, so I don't need too much help" said business and computer science major Daniel Danquah. "But I do think the library needs to be bigger and upgraded."

The desired upgrade is not far away, as the construction of a new Valley library is expected to begin in 2009. According to Lubow, a temporary library is expected to be stationed by the tennis courts so that the estimated \$57-million library resource center can begin construction and reach its tentative completion year of 2011.

If you would like to contact the library for its operating hours or any other questions, you may do so by calling (818) 947-2756.

'Crime'

continued from page 1

fully how you're going to spend that \$300 million."

Valley has many safety features already in place, like an escort service where students can call the Sheriff's Office to get an escort to any place on campus after dark. Although this service is available few students take advantage of it.

"If class is ever too late and it's too dark outside and I don't feel quite safe, then I'd probably call them," said Jennifer Ramirez, an undecided major at Valley. "For a lot of people who are iffy on situations or need help, [it's] always good to have those kind of people around to help you out."

The Sheriff's Department is open all the time and can be reached by calling 947-2911. The department is located in the Sheriff's building in parking lot D.



teaching tip * 9

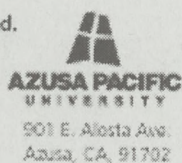
Superheroes don't always wear capes.

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'Contract'

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there's a big decision to be made."

Lopez explained that because there are many bond projects in development and more jobs than contractors bidding for them,

the cost of materials has had an "unusual escalation," which resulted in the Maintenance and Operations building going \$1 million over budget in one year. "It was unforeseen," he said. "It far exceeded what has happened in the past. It was market conditions and not something anyone

could predict."

A proposed \$5,000 drinking fountain for the Planetarium is a prime example of sky rocketing prices. Wieder advised just opening the Math and Science building on the nights of Planetarium shows so that the attendees have access to water.

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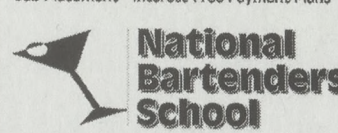
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Wednesday, Nov. 1

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Los Angeles, CA
90069; Doors at 9
p.m. \$15, 15+

Thursday, Nov. 2

Regina Spektor @ Avalon
Hollywood;
1735 N. Vine,
Hollywood, CA
90028; Doors at 7
p.m. \$21.50

Friday, Nov. 3

Say Anything @ El Rey
Theatre. 5515
Wilshire Blvd.,
Los Angeles, CA
90036; Presented
by Goldenvoice. Doors at 7
p.m. \$12.50

Saturday, Nov. 4

Rise Against and Thursday
@ UCI Bren
Events Center;
100 Bren Event
Ctr Dr, Irvine, CA
92612; 8 p.m. \$65; 18+

Sunday, Nov. 5

The Who @ Hollywood
Bowl; 9301 North
Highland Ave.,
Hollywood, CA; 7
p.m. \$57-508

Monday, Nov. 6

Modest Mouse
@ The Wilern
LG, 3790 Wilshire
Blvd., Los
Angeles; 9 p.m.

\$30

Tuesday, Nov. 7

"When The Levees Broke"
is showing in the
Monarch Hall
Auditorium, with
speaker Jervey
Tervalon. 1 p.m. Free.

**Give blood to the American
Red Cross** in the
Valley College
Student Health
Center. 9 a.m. - 3
p.m.

Career/Transfer Corner

Wednesday, Nov. 1

College Personal Statement
Workshop 1 p.m. (H102)
CSULA Rep 4 - 7 p.m.
College Application Workshop
5:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 2

Undecided Major/Career
Workshop 1 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 3

UC Riverside Rep
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 6

Undecided Major/Career
Workshop 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 7

UCLA Transfer Conference
(free bus) 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
College Personal Statement
Workshop H102

Wednesday, Nov. 8

UCLA Rep 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
College Personal Statement
Workshop 1 p.m. (H102)
College Application Workshop
5:30 p.m.

**All activities in Career/
Transfer Center(Adm. 126)
unless otherwise noted. Call
(818) 947-2646 for further
information.**

CD REVIEW

John Legend, "Once Again"

John Legend
"Once Again"
G.O.O.D./Sony Urban
Music/ Columbia Records
★★★★ out of 5

BY ELEARY S. NIXON
STAFF WRITER

Grammy Award winner,
singer/songwriter John Legend
is back with his sophomore

album, "Once Again." The Neo-soul and R&B hit-maker has created a masterpiece of written and vocal perfection that will leave listeners wanting to reconnect with John Legend.

"It was one of the most productive periods of my life," Legend told Billboard magazine. "I was only focused on music. For the first time I didn't have to worry about school or a job."

Taking six months to create, "Once Again" originally spawned 30 songs, but only 13 tracks were chosen to round out this solid compilation.

"Once Again" takes you on a gentle emotional rollercoaster of ballads and low-tempo love songs that you can glide through in one listen.

The song "Save Room" is a mid-tempo song trying to convince a woman to save room for her man's return. "Heaven" attests to the spirit of God as

barring answers to where the love may be going. Yet the predicted break-out song, "Show Me" is arranged vocally to pull at the heart strings from every angle, leaving a perfect love scenario.

Legend's work goes back to 1998 where he played the piano on Lauryn Hill's "Everything is Everything," and he's since worked with Alicia Keys, Janet Jackson, Twista and Kanye West.

On "Once Again," Legend teams up with

label-mate West as executive producer, among other producers such as Will.I.Am, Raphael Saadiq, Eric Hudson & Jack Splash, Craig Street, Dave Tozer and Ken Lewis.

With the popularity of vocal and dance acts like Chris Brown and Omarion, there was a lack of a mature male-vocal prowess in pop, urban and contemporary radio. Now that Usher is taking a break from recording, the entrance is cleared for Legend, whose debut album "Get Lifted" garnered triple platinum status, to take over with his Stevie Wonder-like piano skills and incomparable voice.

This album, without a doubt, will be a commercial hit, earning Legend a few more Grammys along with millions in album sales.

"Once Again" takes you on an emotional rollercoaster of ballads and low-tempo love songs that you can glide through in one listen.



HIT AND RUN - A truck coming from one of Valley College's construction sites side-swiped and knocked down a tree branch yesterday.

DANIEL KANE / VALLEY STAR

THEATER REVIEW

"The Comedy of Errors"

■ Valley College's production of "The Comedy of Errors" brings Shakespeare to life.

BY MARTIN RUIZ
STAFF WRITER

No college education is complete without Shakespeare. Although it's easy to get lost in the language, Valley College's Theater Department makes it fun and lively.

Shakespeare's "The Comedy of Errors" debuted Oct. 26 on the main stage theater. With a cast of about a dozen and a half student actors, the show leapt from the pages of England's Medieval author, whom many regard as the world's premier playwright.

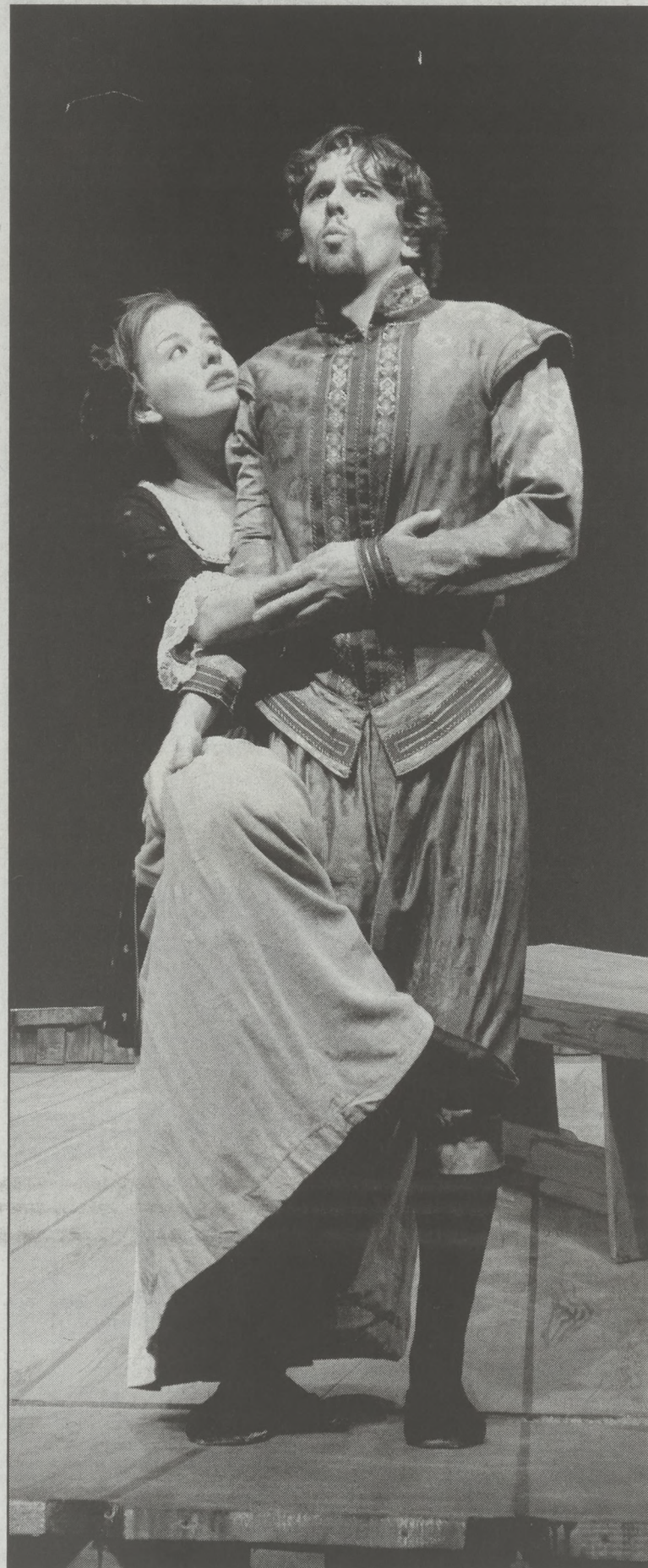
"The Comedy of Errors" is about two sets of twins separated at birth, the Dromio brothers and the Antipholus brothers, both of Syracuse and Ephesus. Their madcap adventures and lovelorn schemes have a slapstick comic effect.

Common to modern sitcoms, the play relies heavily on mistaken identity and humorous misunderstandings, of which the audience is aware, but the characters are not. In one scene, Shakespeare cleverly invokes his famous line from "Romeo and Juliet," in which the characters of "The Comedy of Errors" cry out: "Dromio, Dromio. Wherefore art thou, Dromio?"

While the play was an ensemble effort, newcomer Carlos Chalabi, who played Dromio of Ephesus, and Bernadette Birkette, who played a nun, stood out from the cast. The funniest character was Luce, Dromio of Ephesus' heavyset wife, played by Antonio Mookie Johnson. His comedic style is reminiscent of Chris Farley's from Saturday Night Live. The background players also added a subtle and refreshing touch of liveliness.

What really stood out were the colorful costumes, truly evocative of 16th century Europe, in which the play is set. The director did a great job of creating balance and symmetry on stage with the actions of the characters.

Many students are intimidated by Shakespeare because they think they can't understand it, but Valley's production of "The Comedy of Errors" really brings it to life.



ALEX FAYVIL / VALLEY STAR

AN INDECENT PROPOSAL - Joanna Houghton and Lee Johnson (l-r) in a riveting scene during "The Comedy of Errors."

"The Comedy of Errors"
Valley College Main Stage
Nov. 3 and 4 at 8 p.m.
General Admission: \$15
Students and Seniors: \$10
Reservations: (818) 947-2790

MOVIE REVIEW

"Death of a President" Is Not A Michael Moore Film

"Death of a President"

Director: Gabriel Range
Features: Hend Ayoub and Brian Boland

★★★ out of 5

BY KRISTEN BECKER
STAFF WRITER

"Death of a President" is not a call to arms, but rather a call to look at ourselves and see the consequences of our actions. The film opens with a woman asking in Arabic why the gunman who murdered the president didn't stop to think about the consequences of his actions.

This movie is meant to make us think and to question our prejudices, not to inspire people to commit acts of violence. Despite the title, it is not a vicious or inflammatory attack on President Bush.

The date is Oct. 19, 2007. President Bush is in Chicago

to give a speech on the economy, but he is greeted by a huge mob of angry war protestors. The president gives his speech and as he is leaving the hotel, he is shot and eventually dies.

The story is told in a fictional television documentary by people who were most affected by the president's assassination and the events that followed. The commentators include the head of the FBI and one of the president's speech writers, as well as the wife of the man who was arrested for the president's murder.

The casting director did a good job casting unknown actors as the primary characters. The film transitioned between stock footage of President Bush and Vice President Cheney, staged scenes and interviews, as well as footage with actors digi-

tally placed into the scene. These techniques helped make the film so unsettlingly realistic.

It is not a piece of anti-Bush propaganda. This is not a film Michael Moore would make. This film is a commentary on the current climate in America.

Despite my dislike of President Bush's policies and politics, he is still my country's leader. Because of the frighteningly realistic way the film was made, it was very difficult to watch the depiction of the president's assassination. Regardless of a president's popularity, his murder is bound to have a serious affect on all of that nation's citizens; the film shows what the rash actions of one man can do to an entire nation.

Rather than being a personal attack on President Bush, he is presented as a good man who, according to his speech writer, says of the protestors, "I don't mind them having opinions, I wish they could just demonstrate peacefully."

It is not a piece of anti-Bush propaganda. This is not a film Michael Moore would make. This film is a commentary on the current climate in America. A major national tragedy is used to infringe upon the civil liberties of American citizens (after the president's murder, President Cheney extends the scope of the Patriot Act). It also highlights the almost subconscious tendency of Americans to blame these types of tragedies on Muslims and shows the danger that comes along with this knee-jerk reaction.

"Death of a President"

has united critics from across the political spectrum in their rush to condemn it. "I think it's despicable. I think it's absolutely outrageous," said Sen. Hillary Clinton when the film opened at the Toronto Film Festival in September. "That anyone would even attempt to profit on such a horrible scenario makes me sick."

She said this although she had not even seen the movie. Much of the criticism leveled at the film was said before the film even opened. If these critics had waited to actually see the movie before judging it, they would have been very surprised by the lack of animosity towards the president.

Because of the content of the film, two of the largest movie theaters in the country, Regal Entertainment and Cinemark USA, refused to screen it and CNN and National Public Radio both refused to run ads for it.

LAVC SCORES

Football
Santa Barbara
@ Santa Barbara
(L 35-33 Triple OT)
Football Record: 1-7, 0-6, 0-5

Women's Soccer
@ Pierce
(W 1-0)
Soccer Record: 4-12-2, 1-10-12

Women's Water Polo
@ Ventura
(L 15-0)
Women's Water Polo Record: 0-22, 0-4

Men's Water Polo
@ Ventura
(L 12-7)
Men's Water Polo Record: 12-6, 2-2

LAVC SCHEDULE

Wednesday 10/25/06

Men's Water Polo
@ Ventura
3 p.m.

Women's Water Polo
@ Ventura 4:30 p.m.

Thursday 10/26/06

No Scheduled Games

Friday 11/3/06

Women's Soccer
@ Citrus
3 p.m.

Men's and Women's Cross Country
Southern California Finals
@ Antelope Valley
9 p.m.

Saturday 11/4/06

Football
@ Pierce
7 p.m.

Sunday 10/29/06

No Scheduled Games

Monday 10/30/06

No Scheduled Games

Tuesday 11/7/06

Men's Basketball
@ L.A. Harbor College
7 p.m.

Women's Basketball
@ L.A. Harbor College
5:30 p.m.



For more sport photos
and stories, please
visit
www.lavalleystar.com

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Lady Monarchs Gain Revenge On Pierce

BY TONY SILVA
STAFF WRITER

After an intense game in which both teams had several chances to score, the Valley College Lady Monarchs pushed itself to an impressive 1-0 victory over Pierce College, a team that beat Valley 7-0 just one month ago.

"Ever since we played that last game with Pierce we have grown closer as a team and we have improved in all areas of the game," said Valley defender Tempie White. "We also knew what to expect from them so we focused on our defensive line more."

Pierce, which boasts a 12-3-3 record and is a strong contender in the Western State Conference southern division, had numerous scoring opportunities throughout the game, but was unable to make any impact against Valley's well-organized defense.

"We played really well defensively throughout the entire game. This is the team that I've been

waiting to see for the past couple of months," said head coach Erik Archila. "They're finally starting to click as a team and today they proved that they can beat the best."

"We worked so hard to get this win and I'm just so happy that things turned out the way they did today."

- Diana Jimenez
Lady Monarchs
Defender

Even a team like Pierce who is usually No. 1 in our division."

The action picked up in the 70th minute of the game, as Pierce saw its best opportunity to score squandered when a corner kick from one of its strikers missed wide. Five minutes later, the Lady

Monarchs countered with a close call of its own with a long shot from forward Talia Torres, which missed the left goal post by a few yards.

During the game's final minutes, it almost seemed like the score was going to stay tied at zero, until Valley's leading scorer Michelle Escamilla took a pass 30 yards from the goal and broke through the Pierce defense to easily beat the goalie with a low shot to the far left post for the game-winning goal in the 86th minute.

"We worked so hard to get this win and I'm just so happy that things turned out the way they did today," said Valley defender Diana Jimenez. "I know mathematically we still have a chance to make the playoffs so we're going to put up a fight to win these next games and see what happens."

The Lady Monarchs host Citrus College Nov. 3 at 4 p.m. and visit Glendale College Nov. 10 at 4 p.m.



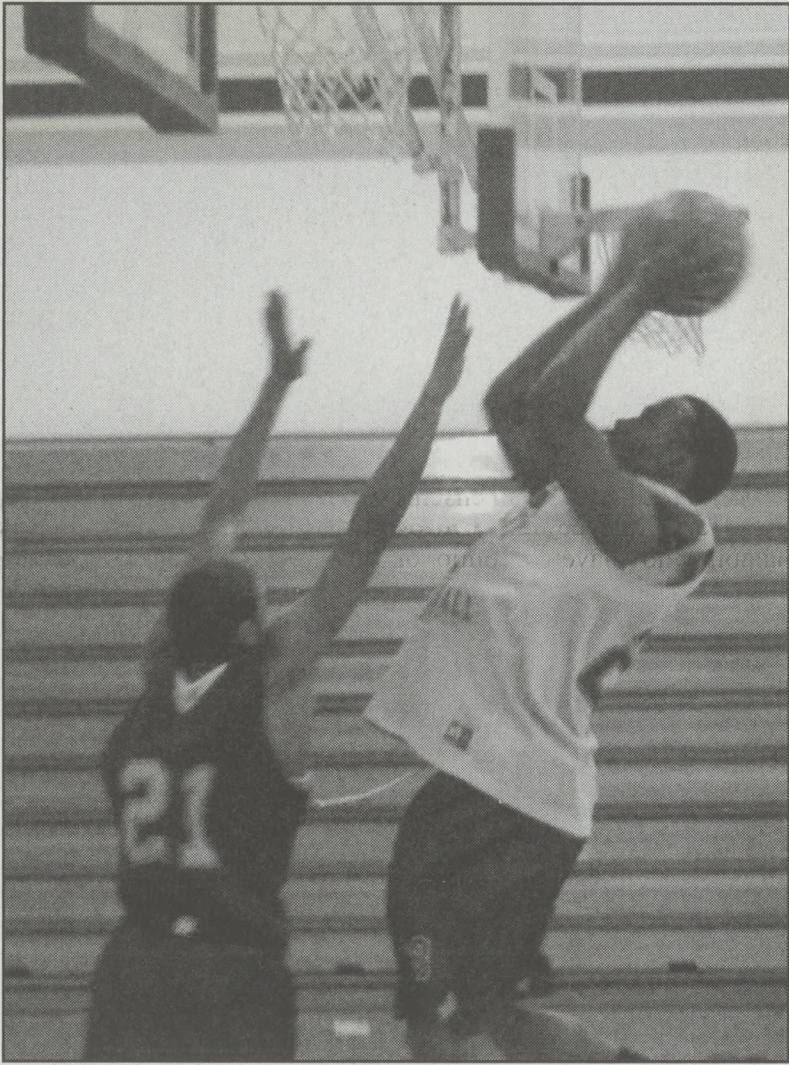
DANIEL KANE / VALLEY STAR
HUMAN WALL - Lady Monarch Maggie Sevilla kicks a ball into Bakersfield Renegade Brittany Freitag. At the time of publication, the score was not yet known.

This Week in Valley College Sports History

In keeping with the impending Valley College Sports Hall of Fame inauguration, the Valley Star will regularly feature a "moment" in the storied history of Monarch sports.

On Thursday, Nov. 13 1975, on a wind-swept night in the heart of the San Fernando Valley, the Valley College Monarchs achieved a feat that had alluded them for 18 years. They defeated the Bakersfield College Renegades 37-13.

In improving their Metro Conference record to 3-1 and 6-1 overall, the Monarchs gained sole possession of second place, one game behind East Los Angeles College, which they played the previous week.



DANIEL KANE / VALLEY STAR

JUMPING HIGH - Two Monarch basketball players practice for the coming season, which looks to be an exciting one for Valley College.

BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Valley Basketball Ready For Action

BY JOVANY DIAZ
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College men's basketball team recently returned from the Irvine Valley Jamboree, and is hoping to turn that informal tournament into lessons for a happy and successful season.

The men will host Los Angeles Harbor College Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. for Monarchs' first home game of the year.

"We're going to have a good season," said Monarchs' point guard Shon Williams.

"Once everything comes together I know we're going to make it to a championship."

For the next two months the Monarchs basketball squad will travel more than 500 miles to play its games, from as far as

San Diego to the San Joaquin Valley in Central California.

They face other eager teams from all over the state, but that doesn't worry these Monarch players.

The young team has only two starting sophomores in forwards Terrance Palmer and Gustavo Valle. The rest of the squad consists of freshman, with two of the players on the roster coming to from Detroit, Michigan.

Confidence isn't the only quality the Monarchs have for this season. Coach Virgil Watson expects more than just self-confidence from his players.

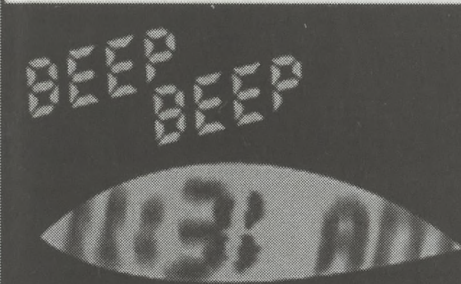
"He's serious about discipline," says Williams about Coach Watson, "he's serious about winning."

"We're going to have a good season. Once everything comes together I know we're going to make it to a championship."

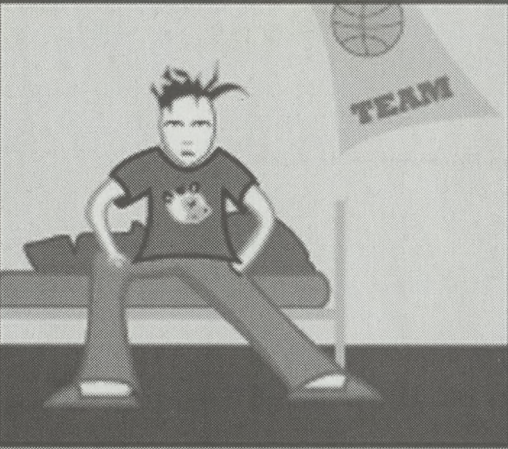
- Shon Williams
Point Guard

the morning...

IF YOU'RE AN EARLY RISER...



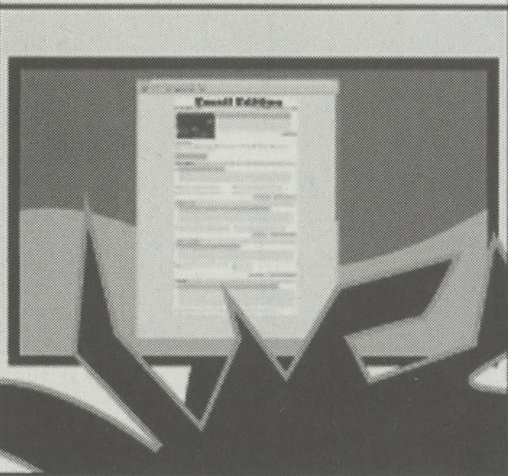
AND YOU NEED TO KNOW WHAT'S UP ON CAMPUS,



HAVE THE LATEST NEWS WAITING FOR YOU...



RIGHT IN YOUR INBOX.



www.lavalleystar.com/register



MIRROR, MIRROR- Timothy Miller applies his make-up backstage before going onstage as Dromio of Syracuse.



WARDROBE - Oliver Smith's jailor Costume sits ready on this styrofoam head.



BEGGING AND PLEADING - Hallie Baran, Joanna Houghton, F. Damion Barela, Marisol Mirales and Julio Dominguez.

The Comedy of Errors

Photos by Daniel Kane and Alex Fayvil
Text and Layout by Daniel Kane

"Comedy of Errors," starring the theater department's most talented students, depicts William Shakespeare's shortest play, in which slapstick and mistaken identity takes center stage.

The play will run Nov. 3 and 4 at 8 p.m. in Valley's Main Stage Theater.



COURTESAN CONFESSIONS - Becca Halliday and Sarah Raphael.



MAYHEM - Cast members F. Damion Barela, Becca Halliday, Eyal Lidergot, J.D. Mitchell, Oiver R. Smith, Jennifer Meyer and Timothy Miller act out a scene where Antipholus of Ephesus is captured.